

2012

J. IRWIN MILLER

HUMAN RIGHTS ART CONTEST

THE
FALL OF
THE
BERLIN
WALL



"Sometimes people forget today how many could not leave (the country) for years, how many sat in prisons ... before the joy of freedom came, many people suffered." — German Chancellor Angela Merkel

2012 Topic: "Breaking Down Barriers"

Columbus Human Rights Commission

123 Washington St. #5

Columbus, IN 47201

(812) 376-2532

humanrights@columbus.in.gov

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

2012 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ESSAY & ART CONTESTS

This year, the Human Rights Commission is sponsoring three contests. An essay and an art contest for the students in Bartholomew County in grades five through twelve. A third contest, Video and Photography, is newly available for students in grades nine through twelve. There will be a winner for each contest - the essay contest and art contest - from each division: division 1 - grades 5 & 6 (grade school); division 2 - grades 7 & 8 (middle school); division 3 - grades 9 through 12 (high school); one winner for Video and Photography. Students are invited to enter either the essay contest or the art contest or **students may enter both**. High School Students are allowed to enter into all three contests. The intent of the contests is to create an awareness and appreciation of our community's diversity and for human rights. You are invited to share this information with your students and encourage their participation. You may want to include the essay and art topic in your classroom or youth group curriculum or you may want to leave it as an enrichment or special project for individual students.

1. ENTRY FORM: Please make sure that each student has a fully completed entry form attached to their essay or artwork and that their name appears ONLY on the entry form and NOT on their essay or the artwork. The information on the entry form is necessary for us to contact contest winners. **The entry form is at the end of THIS packet**

2. CRITERIA: The artwork will be judged for students' recognition of key human rights values and for responses, which include creativity, artistic expression and specificity in relating to the topic.

3. DEADLINE: Monday, Feb. 27th, 2012

Hand Delivery to the Commission:

You may hand deliver your essays or artwork to the Human Rights Commission, no later than Feb. 27th, 2012. No entries will be accepted after that date.

OR

For Essay/ Artwork Pickup at Schools:

Entries for pick up should be taken to your school's office Feb. 27th, 2012, and marked "ATTENTION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ESSAY CONTEST/ ART CONTEST". Inform the office staff that you are leaving them for pick up by the Human Rights Commission. **To arrange for your essays/artwork to be picked up, please call the Human Rights Commission office, 376-2532 prior to delivery of the essays to your school office and leave a message that you want your students' essays/artwork picked up.** Please call to schedule pick up by 9:00 am, Feb. 27th, 2012. Feel free to call several days ahead to schedule pick up on the 20th, which allows the Commission to make plans for pick-up.

4. JUDGING & AWARDS: A panel of community members will judge the essays and artwork on Monday, March 12th, 2012. Essays and artwork will be assigned numbers so judges will not know the identity of the students.

Essay and art contest winners, their teacher, and their school will be notified in the days following the judging. Winners will receive a \$100 savings bond, a collection of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s essays, and complimentary tickets (for the student, his/her parents, and his/her teacher) to the Commission's Annual Dinner on April 19th, 2012, where the student will be recognized. Winning essays will be published on the Commission's website, annual report, and submitted to local newspapers. Winners will receive further information about the dinner.

If you have further questions or need other assistance, please call Lorraine Smith, Director or Frances L. Jordan, Deputy Director, # 376-2532 or humanrights@columbus.in.gov

2012 Human Rights Commission Topic: "Breaking Down Barriers"

ART CONTEST TOPIC:

BACKGROUND: On August 13, 1961, in the dead of night, the Berlin Wall was erected to keep East Germany from fleeing to the West. The Berlin Wall was a physical division between West Berlin and East Germany. The wall stood for 28 years, until November 9, 1989. The destruction of the wall was nearly as instantaneous as its creation, its fall was celebrated around the world. During its existence, the Berlin Wall stretched over a hundred miles. It ran not only through the center of Berlin, but also wrapped around West Berlin, entirely cutting West Berlin off from the rest of East Germany. The wall was a **SYMBOLIC** boundary between democracy and communism during the Cold War. The wall stood as a barrier, a barrier of many different sorts.

A **barrier** is anything that restrains or obstructs progress, access. The Berlin wall was a barrier to progress for the people of East Germany. Throughout history, there are heroes who tore down barriers whether they were built by others or their own personal barriers that they learned to overcome. From Gandhi, and his non-violent movement which broke down the barriers to independence for India to Helen Keller who overcame her barrier of being blind and deaf which lead her to becoming the first blind/deaf person to graduate from college and earn a bachelor's degree. Barriers come in all shapes and sizes, and we want to celebrate those who were able to tear them down.

1. Create an art form such as collage, original drawing, original computer generated image or original photograph. Your artwork can include words and quotes, or only images. You may use quotes you find that feel relate to the topic, or use the quotes from the tool box (attached).
2. Your art should reflect a time in history when barriers were broken down. The artwork should show the difficult choice each of us must make not to be a bystander, but instead break down barriers and stand up for someone being mistreated. Your focus may be on any time in history including the examples given (e.g. The tearing down of the Berlin Wall), or from your own experiences in your school or neighborhood, or a contemporary political situation that you research (e.g., Libya). It can reflect any of these concepts (your choice):
 - a. The difficult choice to break down barriers; or
 - b. Your thoughts on what **YOU** can do to break down barriers; or

- c. Recognition of someone you know or someone from history who you would honor at your school or neighborhood who has broke down barriers.
3. Be mindful the Columbus Human Rights Commission deals with discrimination involving race, sex, disability, religion, natural origin, or age
4. YOU **MAY** USE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO YOU IN THE "ART CONTEST TOOL BOX" TO ASSIST YOU AND INSPIRE YOU BEFORE YOU CREATE YOUR ARTWORK, AND HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE TOPIC THEME!

ARTWORK CRITERIA:

The artwork:

- Must be on paper or poster-art board no larger than 11 in. x 17 in., and no smaller than 8- $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 11 in.
- May be in any medium (e.g. pen & ink, charcoal, pencil, watercolor, flair tip pens, collage, a single photograph, a combination of photographs).
- Must be BLACK & WHITE (gray is permitted).
- Must be submitted unframed. Must not be folded or stapled.
- Artist's name must **NOT** appear in the artwork. (Your name, address, etc. must be filled in on the submission form and attached to the back of your artwork. (Entries will be judged anonymously)

The winning entry may be reproduced and displayed within the Commission's Annual Report or in other written materials produced by the Commission. The Commission may super-impose the name of our organization on the art work, in order to use it as a cover for our annual report. Your work will be judged for your artistic expression of the topic and your creativity. Good Luck!

YOU MAY, IF YOU WISH, USE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO YOU IN THE "ART CONTEST TOOL BOX" TO ASSIST YOU IN CREATING YOUR MASTERPIECE!

ART CONTEST TOOL BOX



Photograph of the Berlin Wall dividing East and West Berlin. Note the graffiti on the western side of the wall and the no man's land on the eastern side. (Photo from [Gustavus Adolphus College](#), [Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library](#))

Definitions:

Bias: An unfair act or policy stemming from prejudice

Bullying: when someone hurts or scares another person on purpose. The person being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself. Usually, bullying happens over and over. It can include repeated pushing, shoving, hitting, and spitting, as well as name calling, picking on, making fun of, laughing at, excluding someone, spreading rumors, and sending nasty emails and notes.

Bystander: a non-participant spectator; a person near an event who chooses to remain uninvolved; a term also used to refer to people who refused to speak out against hate crimes, discrimination of any injustice.

Collaborator Any person or organization who shares expertise, facilities, equipment, or financial support; someone who assists; an associate who works with others toward a common goal.

Civil disobedience: Deliberate, open, and peaceful violation of particular laws, decrees, regulations, military or police orders, or other governmental directives; the deliberate breaking of a law in order to draw public attention and debate to a cause or issue. Civil rights activists working with Rev. Martin Luther King often used this approach to challenge segregation. King defended such actions as justified, provided that those challenging the law do so “lovingly” and with a willingness to accept the penalty.

Cold War: Intense economic, political, military, and ideological rivalry between nations, short of military conflict; sustained hostile political policies and an atmosphere of strain between opposed countries. The freedom of movement was withheld from the citizens and their freedoms and rights were constrained. The Cold War was the continuing state from roughly 1946 to 1991 of political conflict, military tension, proxy wars, and economic competition between the Communist World—primarily the Soviet Union and its satellite states and allies—and the powers of the Western world, primarily the United States and its allies.

Communism: A theory or system of social organization based on the holding of all property in common, actual ownership being ascribed to the community as a whole or to the state.

Dehumanization: To deprive of human qualities or attributes; divest of individuality.

Diversity: Group differences (such as race, sex, color, national origin, religion, disability, etc.)

Genocide: deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, cultural, or religious group.

Harassment: Bullying someone about specific things-- race/color, gender, religion, national origin, and disability is harassment. Harassment is a subset of bullying. Harassment is against the law (even when you are a grownup). Harassment is against the school's policies and your school will investigate if you are harassed! You should talk to your teacher or your principal.

Hero: a person distinguished by exceptional courage; someone who fights for a cause, despite feeling fear.

Hostile environment: a legal term describing the work or school atmosphere that can be created by harassment. Hostile environment can be created by:

- unwelcome sexual advances, other verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature or slurs or mistreatment based on race, religion, national origin, color, disability, and sex) by another student
- Must be either:
 - severe (can be only one time) or
 - happen over and over (persistent and pervasive)
- Affects student's education or activities so much so that no reasonable student would want to go to school or participate in that activity

Honor: show respect towards; bestow a reward upon; to express admiration, respect or esteem toward another person.

Martyr: one who suffers for the sake of principle; one who voluntarily suffers death as the penalty for refusing to renounce their religion.

Paradigm Shift: A radical change in underlying beliefs or theory

Rescuer: a person who rescues you from harm or danger; someone who saves something from danger or violence

Service: An act of assistance or benefit to another or others

Social justice: The act of improving a situation or correcting a wrong or a social problem

Relevant Quotes You May Consider:

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Many well-known writers, politicians and social activists have expressed thoughts on the link between standing up for or defending others, justice, and human rights. You may if you choose examine the following quotes as a tool to write your essay:

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” –**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

“There are no constraints on the human mind, no walls around the human spirit, no barriers to our progress except those we ourselves erect.”

Ronald Reagan

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college she attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."--**Eleanor Roosevelt**

"In Germany, the Nazis first came for the communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Catholic. Then they came for me -- and by that time there was nobody left to speak up." **--Pastor Martin**

Niemöller

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”--
Edmund Burke

“Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.”

John F. Kennedy

“A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.”

Jackie Robinson

“How true Daddy's words were when he said: ‘all children must look after their own upbringing. Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands.’”--

Anne Frank

“They say the world has become too complex for simple answers. They are wrong. There are no easy answers, but there are simple answers. We must have the courage to do what we know is morally right.”—**Ronald Reagan**

“...*agape* [ä-gä-pā] means ‘a profound concern for the welfare of another without any desire to control that other, to be thanked by that other, or to enjoy the process.’ Not easy. But if we can follow it, it will mean that we will never exclude [anyone].”---**Madeleine L'Engle, in A Circle of Quiet**

“I seldom think of my limitations, and they never make me sad. Perhaps there is just a touch of yearning at times; but it is vague, like a breeze among flowers.” –

Helen Keller

"Great spirits have often encountered violent opposition from weak minds." –

Albert Einstein

“Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.” - **Maya Angelou**

“There must be no barriers for freedom of inquiry. There is no place for dogma in science. The scientist is free, and must be free to ask any question, to doubt any assertion, to seek for any evidence, to correct any errors.” **J Robert**

Oppenheimer

In a speech at the Brandenburg Gate commemorating the 750th anniversary of Berlin^[66] on 12 June 1987, **Ronald Reagan** challenged Mikhail Gorbachev, then the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, to tear down the wall as a symbol of increasing freedom in the Eastern Bloc:

“We welcome change and openness; for we believe that freedom and security go together, that the advance of human liberty can only strengthen the cause of world peace. There is one sign the Soviets can make that would be unmistakable, that would advance dramatically the cause of freedom and peace. General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization, come here to this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”

Online Resources:

The Rise and Fall of the Berlin Wall-

<http://history1900s.about.com/od/coldwa1/a/berlinwall.htm>

Berlin Wall Online- <http://www.dailysoft.com/berlinwall/>

BBC: History of Mohandas Gandhi-

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/gandhi_mohandas.shtml

Jackie Robinson: Breaking the Color Barrier-

<http://www.america.gov/st/diversity-english/2008/December/20090106142542jmnamdeirf0.8552515.html>

PBS: Rise and Fall of Jim Crow-

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/index.html>

Top Ten People who Overcame their Disabilities-

<http://www.toptenz.net/10-people-who-overcame-their-disabilities.php>

Barrier Breakers: Definition of Discrimination-

<http://www.barrierbreakers.com/blog/definition-of-discrimination>

Teaching Tolerance

<http://www.tolerance.org>

Videos:

Lifting Up a Voice: Paving A Path To Justice In Columbus-

<http://www.columbus.in.gov/human-rights/video/video-lifting-up-a-voice/>

BB Moments: Breaking Barriers-

http://mlb.mlb.com/video/play.jsp?content_id=3328380

"BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS"

BENJAMIN M. KING ESSAY CONTEST ❖ ____ **J. IRWIN MILLER ART CONTEST ❖** ____

2011 CONTEST DIVISION: ____ ELEM (5-6) ____ MIDDLE ____ HIGH SCHOOL

.....
PLEASE PRINT NEATLY, FILLING IN ALL BLANKS.

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS: _____
(Street) (City) (Zip)

PARENT DAYTIME PHONE#: () _____ (required)

PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S NAME: _____

NAME OF SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION: _____ **Grade:** ____

NAME OF STUDENT'S TEACHER: _____ (required)

First Name Last Name
Photography ☐ Video ☐ [Focal Point ____ or Director ____]

.....
THIS FORM MUST BE ATTACHED TO ENTRIES. IT MAY BE DUPLICATED AS
NEEDED

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ON YOUR ENTRY!

"BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS"

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